NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

July 10, 1998

MAJOR NEW FUNDING

The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, has announced a $2 million pledge to CONNECTING: The Campaign for The Field Museum. This highly-prestigious commitment comes in the form of a campaign completion challenge grant. To receive the funds, the Museum must successfully complete its current $70 million campaign before June 1999. We will apply the Kresge grant toward the Museum's great infrastructure needs, a difficult-to-fund priority within the Campaign.

The Kresge Foundation makes challenge grants nationally to provide incentive to donors near the end of major capital campaigns. A commitment of $2 million is one of the largest grants Kresge has ever announced and a stellar reflection of the Museum's reputation. We will share this news with prospects and invited them to help the Museum meet the Foundation's challenge before June 1999. We will also communicate the opportunity to participate in the Campaign with our extended family of members through the annual Fall appeal. All gifts to Campaign priority areas—including the Annual Fund—help the Museum meet the Kresge Challenge.

Charles Katzenmeyer, Campaign director, led the Museum team which developed the winning proposal.

Submitted by **Willard White**

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PUBLIC PROGRAM PLANNING

Staff from all parts of the Museum, as well as individuals and representatives from organizations outside of the Museum, are invited to submit ideas for programs to be presented by The Field Museum. The deadline to submit program ideas for the winter quarter (December, January and February) is July 15.

Ideas may be submitted in the following ways:

- Submit a proposal to the Education Department.
- Submit the idea (by phone, e-mail, or note) to **Kristie Webber,** manager of Public Programs, or **Sue Stott,** events coordinator

Program heads, the director of Education and other designated managers and staff, will review submitted proposals. Anyone who submits a program idea will be notified about the status of the proposal. The Education Department staff welcomes your ideas and suggestions in planning for future programs and events.

WAYFINDING PROJECT UPDATE

You may have noticed that two new two-sided kiosks were recently placed in the center of Stanley Field Hall near the central information desk. These kiosks are part of the continued improvements to our wayfinding system. They provide information about our scientists and their research, daily programs at the Museum, upcoming exhibits and programs, and the Museum Campus.

Please note that the painted wooden cases holding the graphic panels on these kiosks are temporary. They will be replaced with painted steel cases that include non-reflective glass. We are aware that the glare off of these kiosks makes it difficult for visitors to read the information. We are moving forward to correct this problem, hopefully by the middle of next month.

Submitted by **Melissa Hilton**

FIELD MUSEUM RESTAURANT UPDATE

Please stop by McDonald's to see some of the new operational improvements and say hello to the new staff! Stantions were placed near the counter to improve the organization of the queing lines. Also, the employee line is closer to the entrance of the restaurant, for ease of access. More changes to come in the near future--such as outdoor seating in August and renovations in September.

Corner Bakery is open! Please stop by and enjoy the great food if you have not done so. Corner Bakery is offering a 10% discount to all employees and volunteers who show their I.D. cards. Outdoor seating in the north terrace will be available in late-July. Enjoy!!

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**

1998 FIELD MUSEUM STAFF AND VOLUNTEER COOKBOOK

Hey, everybody! Got a favorite summer recipe? It's not too early to submit recipes for this year's cookbook. Please send recipes you'd like to share **to Mary Anne Rogers** (Fishes, x272) or **Elaine Zeiger** (Geology, x338). Recipes on paper, diskette and e-mail are all acceptable. Thanks!

FAREWELL

On July 17, I will be leaving the Museum for an exciting new opportunity as executive assistant to the CEO of Newsweb. It has been a privilege to work with so many wonderful colleagues on the mission of our Museum, which includes some of the most important issues of our time. I plan to return often as a visitor, and eventually as a volunteer.

The next issue of the *Natural News* will be my last as editor. (Please have your material in by Tuesday at noon, as I will be on a particularly short timeline next week!) Rest assured, plans are underway for publication of the staff newsletter by someone else.

Thank you for your assistance, cooperation and--above all--your friendship over the years.

Carolyn Klyce

WELCOME

Staff who began their employment in June!

Jill Anderson	Environ/Conservation	Research Assistant
Abraham Bloom	Exhibits	Assistant Lighting Technician
Michael Burns	Exhibits	3D Design Manager
Matthew Carrano	Geology	Collections Grant Coor.
Teresa Clark-Petravick	Millenium Project	Administrative Assistant
Roberto Claveria	Security	Security Officer
Jacqueline Crowder	Audio/Visual	AV Maintenance Coor.
Katie Griffin	Stores	Sales Clerk I
Jason Joyner	Housekeeping	Housekeeper I
Cody Lassen	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep. I
Angela McCurine	Housekeeping	Housekeeper I
Gale Nienhuis	Stores	Sales Clerk I
Theodore Nottage	Security	Security Supervisor
Beth O'Connell	Stores	Assistant Manager
Rachel Polutnik	Stores	Assistant Manager
Zeus Preckwinkle	Zoology	Summer Instructor
Salud Renteria	Stores	Sales Clerk III/Signature
William Ryan	Education	Ass. Floor Manager/Butterflies
Agatha Sajewicz	Geology	Laboratory Assistant
Jennifer Shopland	Environ/Conservation	Ecologist/Writer
Elree Smith	External Affairs	Asst. to VP
Connie Sulkin	Education	Early Childhood Advisor
Uwimana Tyehimba	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep. I
Sheila Wheatley	Anthropology	Secretary

WELCOME

Interns who began employment in June!

Anna Bohrer	Zoology	Malinda Martinez	Museum Campus
Guerino Bruno	Biodiversity Explorer	Maribelle Martinez	Museum Campus
Rebecca DiCandilo	Photography	Ryan Meher	Biodiversity Ex.
Barbara Edwards	Museum Campus	Adam Mikos	Museum Campus
Nicholas Eichenseer	Museum Campus	Rabiah Morning-Parker	Museum Campus
Carina Eizmendi	Education	Charles Mutscheller	Education
Erica Fierro	Biodiversity Explorer	Leila Nordman	Education
Eric Fish	Museum Campus	Paula Perkins	Exhibits
Jennifer Francis	Anthropology	Jeannette Pifer	Environ/Conserv
Natale Fuller	Museum Campus	Jennifer Romero	Museum Campus
Irene Gomez	Museum Campus	Dov Scher	Education
Martin Gross	Geology	Karen Sears	Geology
Belinda Hernandez	Biodiversity Explorer	David Sepkoski	Geology
William Jobe	Zoology	Jonathan Sperry	Education
Jennifer Johnson	Geology	Elizabeth Styles	Museum Campus
Elizabeth Lehman	Zoology	Ankur Vaghani	Botany
Siyi Li	Biodiversity Explorer	Emily Walker	Zoology
Helene Liss	Museum Affairs	Sally Weinstein	Exhibits
Rebecca Margolin	Exhibits	Nancy Williams	Environ/Conserv
Beth Marquardt	Human Resources	Roman Yukilevich	Zoology

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Beth Marquardt	Human Resources	Roman Yukilevich	Zoology

WELCOME BACK

Staff who were rehired during June!

Sonja Berg	Academic Affairs	Intern Program Assistant
Robin Whatley	Geology	Graduate Student Intern

CONGRATULATIONS

Staff who were promoted or changed positions!

	From	To
Elizabeth Adams	Education Program Asst.	Program Specialist
Stephen Bell	Program Manager	Coord, Public Programs
Sandra Blake	Secretary II	Program Registrar
Christina Breslow	Project Coordinator	Projects Manager
Paul Brunsvold	Production Crew Chief	Production Administrator
Joe Byrnes	Program Manager	Coord, Public Programs
Marla Camp	Administrative Assistant	Administrative Coordinator
Elizabeth Crownover	Education Program Asst.	Program Specialist
Peter Deriemer	Exhibit Preparator I	Exhibit Preparator II
Hershey Escudero	Secretary II	Secretary III
Rudolfo Garcia	Exhibit Preparator II	Production Crew Chief
Robert Gray	Security Officer II	Security Officer III
Carrie Hageman	Manager, Special Exhibits	Sue Project Manager
Paula Horecny	Exhibit Preparator II	Production Crew Chief
Eunice Hoshizaki	Exhibit Coll. Assistant	Assistant Developer
Adam Kashiba	ECP Admin?Finance Asst.	Office and Data Coord.
Neil Keliher	Production Supervisor	Maintenance Manager
Lance Kirsch	Exhibit Preparator I	Exhibit Preparator II
Eric Lindveit	Senior Shop Supervisor	Production Supervisor
Holly Lundberg	Conserv Asst. Conservator	Associate Conservator
Isabel Schillace	Coord, Special Exhibits	Coord, Temporary Exhibits
Sophia Shaw	Special Projects Manager	Manager, Temporary Exhibits
Alonzo Spencer	Security Officer I	Security Officer II
Kathleen Weibel	Hall Interpreter Prgm. Mang.	Program Specialist
Ray Van Hook	Assistant Manager	Safety Manager

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES

Staff who ended employment during June!

Elsie Guy	Vending	Food Service Aid II
Steve Hageman	Academic Affairs	Sponsered Program. Coord.
Darrien Hughes	Security	Security Officer
Rebecca Lopez	Public Relations	Public Relations Supervisor
Michael Nedbal	Geology	Post-Doctoral Research Ass.
German Rueda	Stores	Selling Store Supervisor

THE WAR ON BUGS — VICTORY BEGINS AT HOME

At the Administrative Docket meeting on July 7, **Larry Heaney** shared some very disturbing statistics regarding insect infestation at the Museum, a serious threat to the collections and to specimens in the exhibit halls.

He also explained one very simple solution which has helped to reduce the infestation problem within the mammals & birds collections areas.

The worst offenders are the dermestids (similar to the beetles which clean bones in the Mammals prep lab). The smaller beetles which infest the Museum can live from birth to maturity on *as few as six hairs*. Think "dust bunny," then think "condominium."

According to Larry, the Mammals and Birds areas have found that by removing everything from the floor and discarding it or storing it differently, they have been better able to keep the area free from dust and hair and other particles which accumulate.

I think this insight makes a great deal of sense for other areas of the Museum, too. If we keep the floors in our areas free from papers, file folders, books, and boxes, the Housekeeping Department will be able to vacuum the floor and clean more effectively and we will have done our part to thwart the beetles.

I admit that I am one of the worst offenders (I love filing things "horizontally"), and I recognize that this is no simple cleanup task, but an ongoing change of habit.

So let's all try to find creative ways to store everything in our areas "above-ground," to remove trash and other clutter which really doesn't need to be in our work spaces, and to keep the floors clear as we work.

Submitted by **Rodger Patience**

Thanks!

To those folks in the Print Shop--Andy Medina and Ed Czerwin chief among them--who print and collate the *Natural News*. Week after week, regardless of other projects, they do what is necessary to get the newsletter to the staff. I never could have done it without them. **Carolyn Klyce**

Ready to Retire?

You may want to consider putting your recent pay increase to work for you and your retirement!

We have asked all of the Tax Sheltered Annuity(TSA) Representatives to come to the The Museum to answer questions about starting a TSA or making changes to your current TSA.

TSA's are tax-deferred, retirement savings accounts. The money and interest is only taxed when you receive it, usually when you retire. The contribution comes right out of your paycheck on a pre-tax basis and you can design your own investment portfolio with one of our TSA carriers. There will be representatives from each carrier: Kemper, TIAA-CREF and VALIC.

Tuesday, July 21, 1998
Dining Rooms B, C, and D
11:00 am until 3:00 pm

This is a great opportunity to begin or check up on your retirement savings plan. If you have questions, please call **Carole Kasarda** (x529).

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FIALKOWSKI SPEAKS AT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM IN JAPAN

Carol Fialkowski (ECP) recently returned from a weeklong trip to Ibaraki, Japan. The Japanese Ministry of Education invited Carol to participate in the U.S.A. & Japan Symposium on Environmental Learning with Effective Use of Museums at the Ibaraki Nature Museum. Carol spoke about The Field Museum and its ties with environmental education. She also led a workshop called "The Wonder of Wetlands." The Symposium was a response to environmental education initiatives in seven Japanese museums. This was Carol's second trip to Japan; last fall she went to Kyoto to discuss environmental education initiatives in that part of the country.

MYCOLOGISTS ATTEND MEETING IN PUERTO RICO

The Field Museum was well represented at the joint Mycological Society of America / American Bryological and Lichenological Society meetings held in San Juan, Puerto Rico from June 11-16. **Greg Mueller, François Lutzoni, Qiuxin Wu, Patrick Leacock, Fernando Fernández, John Paul Schmit,** and **Andy Miller** (Botany) and our Chinese collaborator **Yongqing Huang** all presented at least one paper. Additionally, Greg co-organized a half-day discussion session on fungal biodiversity. **Betty Strack, David Quist,** and **Shouyu Guo** (Botany) also attended. John Paul was awarded one of the Mycological Society of America's Fellowships in recognition of his outstanding promise as a mycologist during the awards ceremony at the meeting. Fernando was an onsite co organizer of the four-day pre-meeting workshop on Ascomycetes. This workshop was organized by **Sabine Huhndorf** (Botany) and partially funded through a supplement to her NSF PEET grant. Andy was a participant in that workshop and John Paul was a participant in the Corticiaceae premeeting workshop.

STRONG SHOWING AT MAMMAL MEETINGS

The cream of Field Museum and Chicagoland mammalogy attended this year's annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists in Blacksburg, Virginia. **Both Larry Heaney** and **Bruce Patterson** served as members of the Board of Directors, **while Bill Stanley** succeeded in retrieving outstanding truant loans from a nearby North Carolina address. (One can almost hear him say "Hello, I'm from Chicago..."). Larry spoke about a subfossil water buffalo from the Philippines, Bruce about coevolution of bats and batflies, and Bill compared the divergence patterns of Tanzanian shrews and mice. Bruce chaired a paper session on systematics and was featured in the "Breakfast with a Scientist" program for new graduate students, while Larry presented the Merriam Award, the society's highest research honor, at the banquet.

Graduate student **Link Olson** (University of Chicago) gave a plenary talk in the opening session on Madagascar's tenrec radiation. Other graduates honored during the meeting were **Melissa Morales-Cogan**(UC) and **Jodi Sedlock** (University of Illinois at Chicago), who each won grants-in-aid of research. (Melissa also presented a talk on biomechanics of Old World fruit bats.) Other FMNH-associated students who participated in the meeting were **Darrin Croft** (UC, paper on Honduran shrews), **Kate Lyons** (UC, paper on Pleistocene North American mammal communities), **Doreen Covey** (UIC, paper on New World deer phylogenetics), **Ginny Turner-Erfort** (UIC, paper on roles of mammals in Illinois prairie restoration), **Chris Yahnke** (Northern Illinois University, poster on

hantavirus in Paraguayan mammals), and **John Ososky** and **Natalie Rigertas** (both NIU). Former UC graduate student and Armour Fellow **Scott Steppan,** now on a post-doc at the Smithsonian, gave a talk on marmot phylogenetics en route to his new tenure-track position at Florida State University in the fall.

KUSIMBA RETURNS FROM TSAVO, KENYA

Chap Kusimba (Anthropology), returned from Kenya after a month-long survey and excavation in the Tsavo National Park. Accompanied by seven students and interns, Kusimba spent the last five weeks undertaking archaeological surveys in Tsavo East and West National Park. Kusimba's research in Tsavo, supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and National Geographic Society, is aimed at understanding the long-term relationships between productive technology, society, and the environment in East Africa that shaped the evolution of human societies in the Tsavo region. This research covers the period 10,000 BP to the present, and addresses three complementary areas: the rise of metallurgy, the relationship of ceramic, metal and obsidian production to trade patterns, and the impact of iron and other productive technologies on the environment.

Kusimba's research is part of the large interdisciplinary program initiated early this year by Field Museum Anthropology and Zoology departments. The core group of the Tsavo Initiative is composed of Kusimba, **Bruce Patterson** (Mammals), **Julian Kerbis Peterhans** (Mammals), **Tom Gnoske** (Birds), and **Sibel Barut Kusimba** (Anthropology). This Fall, with funding from the Eli Lilly Foundation, the team will excavate the cave of the man-eaters of Tsavo. The excavation will be filmed by Kurtis Productions for a *New Explorers with **Bill Kurtis*** documentary on the man-eating lions.

While in the Field, Kusimba and his team were visited by **John McCarter.** Chap accompanied McCarter on a tour of early hominid sites at Koobi Fora and Olorgesailie. With David Western, Director of Kenya Wildlife Services, they toured also the man-eaters' den in Tsavo. McCarter was in Kenya to sign a five-year Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the National Museums of Kenya. The MOU will involve collaboration in research, exhibit design and development, conservation, training, and staff exchanges between the two institutions.

Congratulations!

To **Sabine Huhndorf** (Botany) and **Ray Menge**
on the birth of their son **Christopher** on June 10, 1998

FREE JARS

The Botany Department has over 100 glass jars (quart size) that are available to anyone. They previously were used to store materials in the Economic Botany collection. If you can use any or all of them please contact **Christine Neizgoda** (x276) as soon as possbile.